GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2705
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Transportation of Foodgrains
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to transport foodgrains through waterways to reduce their transportation cost under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether transportation of foodgrains through waterways is likely to help in getting rid of entry tax, octroi and sales tax and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government is also considering to take the assistance of the Private Sector in transportation of foodgrains through waterways; and
(e) if so, the details thereof indicating names of the States where foodgrains are likely to be supplied through waterways?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a & b): Yes, Madam. Food Corporation of India has undertaken transportation of foodgrains through waterways where it was found to be operationally and economically viable. FCI moved foodgrains via sea route from designated depots of Andhra Pradesh to designated depots of Kerala. A total of 1.34 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT) foodgrains have been transported since 15.03.2014 from Andhra Pradesh to Kerala.
Due to Megablock of Railways in Lumding-Badarpur section, 9691 Million Tonne (MT) foodgrains was moved from West Bengal to Tripura via Ashuganj (Bangladesh) during March'2015-July'2015 and 9942 Million Tonne (MT) was moved from Vishakhapatnam to Tripura via Ashuganj (Bangladesh) during Aug'2014-Nov'2014.
(c): No, Madam. Taxes as due are paid by FCI and are levied at point of sale from depot of recipient State.
(d): Yes, Madam. Transportation through water ways has been done through open tendering and contracts have been awarded to private parties.
(e): Presently, Kerala and Tripura are the two recipient States receiving foodgrains through waterways.
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